

# Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

## ***FIRST THINGS FIRST***

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **Call to Order**

The special meeting of the First Things First – Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on Wednesday, November 7, 2007, State Capitol, 1700 W. Washington, Phoenix, Arizona 87009. Chair Mathis Basha called the meeting to order at approximately 10:10 a.m.

Chair Mathis Basha presented preliminary comments on system building for early childhood. Ms. Mathis Basha gave an overview of the Board's challenge to create strong programs and build a firm foundation for Arizona.

#### **Presentation on Building a System for Early Childhood Development**

Executive Director Elliott Hibbs introduced Dr. Deanna Gomby, founder of Deanna Gomby Consulting, which specializes in helping foundations, non-profit and government agencies, with the design and evaluation of programs for children.

Dr. Gomby presented to the Board a comprehensive early childhood system building model. Dr. Gomby defined an early childhood development system as a system made up of inter-related parts working together toward a common goal: to ensure the healthy growth and optimal development of young children in the context of their families. Dr. Gomby stated a conceptual framework includes content and infrastructure as key elements for a successful system.

#### **Presentations on Elements within the Early Childhood System**

Karen Woodhouse, Deputy Director of First Things First, introduced a conceptual model represented by a timepiece, of an Arizona Early Childhood Development System. The timepiece incorporates the 6 goal areas in the initiative, with the clock work gears representing the program content and infrastructure.

#### **Presentation on Elements of Quality Improvement**

Chair Mathis Basha reported the Quality Workgroup is currently developing a a quality improvement rating system.

Sandy Foreman, Policy Specialist for First Things First, presented to the Board the importance of quality assurance of a healthy, safe and nurturing environment for early childcare. The importance of quality programs provides a more competitive marketplace for child care providers, as well as lower staff turnover and greater staff satisfaction. This assures consistent relationships with reliable adults.

#### **Presentation on Elements of Professional Development**

Rhian Evans Allvin, Chair of the Professional Development Workgroup, updated the Board on the workgroup progress. Ms. Evans Allvin stated the workgroup has agreed upon 10 core elements of a professional development system that will be presented to the Board at the January meeting.

Alicia Smith, Program Specialist for First Things First, presented to the Board a comprehensive professional development system. A professional development system was defined as an institutionalized set of actions and learning activities intended to provide practitioners with continuing education and training opportunities.

Karen Woodhouse, Deputy Director of First Things First, concluded the presentations with an example of how the quality improvement and professional development gears tie together in the conceptual model.

**Branding**

Nicole Stewart, Communications Director for First Things First, presented to the Board for discussion and review, a proposal for logo colors from REISTER.

A Motion was made by Member Evans Allvin to adopt the blue/green color scheme on page number 1 of the REISTER proposal. Seconded by Pamela Powell. Motion carried. Vote 5-2

**Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.